

WORKLESSNESS INITIATIVES UPDATE

Report of the Chief Executive Derby Homes

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report has been produced to inform the Board of the initiatives being implemented by Derby Homes to assist residents who are in a worklessness situation - unemployed for six months or more.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Board notes this report and that Derby Homes continues to help residents address the barriers to gaining employment through:

- apply for funding through external funding streams to enable further development of worklessness initiatives
- investigate other initiatives in conjunction with the DACP
- investigate providing computer training sessions for residents
- promote our worklessness initiatives through a variety of marketing mechanisms, including Derby Homes News
- continue to facilitate a worklessness strategy group to positively contribute to the Government's worklessness agenda.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 We have established a bi-monthly worklessness strategy group, with members from Derby City Council, Job Centre Plus, YMCA, and a mix of Registered Social Landlords and Housing Associations' local to Derby.
- 3.2 We regularly attend the Jobs and Skills meeting which is facilitated by the Job Centre Plus and involves a wide range of employers, training providers and public sector organisations. We also participate in the Worklessness Action Sub Group.
- 3.3 As part of Derby City Partnership's 'Be Inspiring', Derby Homes has pledged to offer 250 unemployed residents or their family members work opportunities or training placements by 2012.

- 3.4 As part of this, Derby Homes has created the Home 2 Work scheme which offers residents who are in a worklessness situation the opportunity to complete a four week work experience placement in the field of Customer Service. During this placement, the candidate will learn basic computer skills, complete Health and Safety training and undertake employment initiatives such as job search and interview techniques. The first pilot of the Home 2 Work scheme ran from 2 February 2009 until 27 February 2009.
- 3.5 Following the success of the first Home 2 Work Pilot, it is planned to expand the scheme and run further placement opportunities in April, June, August, October and December. This will provide the opportunity for 20 residents to gain work experience.
- 3.6 Other training / placement schemes include youth trainees, trainee housing assistants, year 10 work experience placements, and PATRA (positive action training recruitment agency incorporating Afro Caribbean development agency) placements.
- 3.7 Various employment initiatives sessions are delivered at the Tenants Resource Centre. The YMCA provides sessions under their Working Links contract and Derring Trust, which provide weekly sessions for deaf or hearing impaired residents.
- 3.8 Derby Homes provides quarterly employment statistics which identify the current diversity make up of our organisation and the employment targets for the next 12 months. We have just signed up to the skills pledge to help staff get training and new qualifications funded through the Learning and Skills Council.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

Officer time taken to implement the variety of placement schemes offered.

5. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Residents in a worklessness situation are more likely to be economically disadvantaged and less able to participate fully in society. By offering work placement opportunities Derby Homes is helping residents remove barriers and achieve the skills required to help them secure employment.
- 5.2 The Home 2 Work placement scheme is open to all residents who have been unemployed for longer than six months and are between the ages of 18 – 65. Places are limited and will be allocated following a short interview.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

A risk assessment has been completed for the Home 2 Work project

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report

- Consultation
- Financial and Business Plan
- Legal and Confidentiality
- Environmental

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or the Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org - Tel 01332 711010

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Background Information: None

Supporting Information: None